

1 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: INTERNET Relay Tower at Hattontown

1. FBIS has entered into a contractual relationship with Overseas Telecommunications Incorporated (OTI) to establish a satellite earth terminal and the appropriate terrestrial communication to connect the earth terminal and FBIS headquarters. In the course of creating this facility, OTI entered into a subcontract with Bell Atlantic Mobile. This subcontract has become the subject of considerable controversy involving a Fairfax County Supervisor, a Reston Planning Commission Officer, and the Reston newspaper. The purpose of this memo is to correct the record since most of the public statements that have been made are in error as to the factual information.

2. The issues are:

a. The Hattontown Tower is not a CIA tower. It is owned, and will continue to be owned, by Bell Atlantic.

b. The subcontract entered into by OTI on FBIS's behalf was to supply funding to have the existing tower replaced by a structurally stronger tower. In return for this financial support, a reduced rental rate for microwave dishes would be granted by Bell Atlantic.

c. The existing tower is approximately 183 feet tall and has a ten foot structure at its peak. The proposed replacement tower is also 183 feet tall and will support the same structure.

d. The existing structure at the peak is triangular in shape and measures two feet high and ten feet on each side. The tip of the Bell whip antennas affixed to this structure reach a maximum height of 198 feet above the ground level. The proposed tower would have the same arrangement but would also support the microwave dishes. The proposed dish antennas are: one 8 foot, one 6 foot, and three 2 foot diameter units. The main eight foot antenna will be located at the 175 foot level with the smaller antennas located down at the 155 foot point.

e. The land occupied by the existing tower is approximately three acres, but since it is four feet wide at the base it requires guy wires extending to the perimeter of the three acre plot. The proposed tower is self supporting and only occupies a 30 foot by 30 foot plot of land (approximately 1/50 of an acre).

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f. The three acres that would become available if the proposed tower were erected, in lieu of the existing structure, has been offered to the community for park land or sports facilities expansion. Sanitary facilities at the Bell site are also being made available.

g. The microwave dishes pose no health hazard whatsoever. Maximum transmitter power is 2 watts. Thus, a maximum radiation level of 1/10 of a picowatt/square centimeter exists in the immediate vicinity of the tower which is the only location of significance radiation level wise. The most stringent standard, recognized internationally for a health hazard is ten million picowatts/square centimeters. Thus, the radiation from this facility is more than a million times lower than international health standards.

h. Of the five dish antennas only four emit any energy at any given time.

i. There is no, or was there ever, any intention on the part of the Government to condemn the land. The Government, through its contractor, OTI, was intending to rent space on the Bell Tower and not prohibit Bell from conducting its own business with its own facility.

j. Other potential sites for this communication facility were investigated. This one was selected because it satisfied the technical requirements and did not involve erecting a new tower of greater height. It also appeared to be the least expensive option.

3. The entire issue appears to have been blown out of proportion by [redacted] of the Planning Commission. His opposition apparently is based on his residence being near the existent tower and/or that he is a political activist. Involvement of other political figures and their statements are counterbalanced by others in the community who see the park expansion as a definite advantage. Thus, it should be expected that the issue may be resolved, not by the factual data but by the influence of the various factions.

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4. Alternatives to the Hattontown Tower are being actively sought in the event that the issue can not be resolved. In addition, OTI has been directed to, through their subcontractor, set the public record straight and correct all factual data. This will be accomplished by the Bell lawyer writing a letter to all parties concerned.

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C/FBIS/ESG/FED

cc: D/FBIS
C/OPS
C/ESG
INTERNET File